

A RESOLUTION honoring and welcoming President Raymond M. Burse of Kentucky State University as the keynote speaker for the 2015 Kentucky Legislative Black Caucus Black History Program.

WHEREAS, Raymond M. Burse was named fourteenth president of Kentucky State University on October 24, 2014, after serving as interim president since July 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, upon assuming the presidency, he promptly drew national acclaim by voluntarily reducing his annual salary so that the lowest-paid university employees would receive a living wage; and

WHEREAS, President Burse is in his second presidency at Kentucky State University, having served as the ninth president from 1982 to 1989, during which time he oversaw record-level student enrollments, more than \$60 million in capital improvements, and significant enhancements in the academic and financial operations of the institution, including the establishment of the Whitney M. Young College of Leadership Studies; and

WHEREAS, for seventeen years he served as an executive with the General Electric Corporation, first as senior counsel and then as vice president and general counsel; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, he has shown a lifelong commitment to excellence in education, having received his law degree from Harvard Law School, and his bachelor's degree from Centre College, where he was named to the dean's list all four years; and

WHEREAS, he has achieved success in athletics from high school through college, having been named to the All-College Athletic Conference Football Team and as Centre's Most Valuable Offensive Player in football; and

WHEREAS, while a young student at Centre College, he assumed leadership roles as founder and president of the Centre College Black Student Union and as a student advisor to the Centre College president; and

WHEREAS, his cumulative achievements in academics, athletics, and student

leadership resulted in his selection as a Rhodes Scholar, only the twenty-seventh person from Kentucky at the time to be so honored, where he attended Oxford University to study organic chemistry; and

WHEREAS, he has shown a commitment to excellence in community service, having received the John W. Davis Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense and Education Fund; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to community service continues as a member of the Boards of Trustees of Centre College and Alabama A&M University, and service on the boards of the Louisville branch of the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, the Frankfort/Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, and the YMCA of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, his past service to the community includes chair of the Louisville Free Public Library Advisory Commission, chair of the Appeals Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College, vice chair of the Louisville Community Foundation Board of Directors, and on the Louisville Economic Development Corporation, the National Collegiate Athletic Association Council, and the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

➔Section 1. The Senate honors and commends President Raymond M. Burse for his lifetime of dedication to excellence in education and service to Kentucky State University and to the people of the Commonwealth, and for providing the keynote address at the 2015 Kentucky Legislative Black Caucus Black History Program.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of President Raymond M. Burse.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for delivery.